Supply of Medicines to Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Q.—9. **Messrs. S. RAMAPPA** and **S. ABDUL SATTAR** (Srinivaspur Taluk).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the average rate of attendance in each of the four hospitals, *viz.*, Victoria Hospital, Krishnarajendra Hospital, District Hospital and Taluk Dispensary ;

(*b*) the average expenditure incurred for medicine per patient in each hospital ;

(*c*) the number of supplemental indents for medicine and other articles that were received from taluk dispensaries during the years 1936-37 and 1937-38 ;

(*d*) the number of these indents that were complied with and the extent ;

(*e*) whether it has come to their notice that some important medicines will not be available in taluk dispensaries at the end of the year ?

A.—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (Mr. P. H. Krishna Rao).**—

(*a*)— *Daily Average—1937*

	In-patient	*Out-patient.*
Krishnarajendra Hospital, Mysore.	296	561
Victoria Hospital ...	274	789
District Hospitals— (7) Average attendance. ...	47	224

(*b*) *Average expenditure per patient.*—

	Pies per day.
Krishnarajendra Hospital, Mysore	7·76
Victoria Hospital ...	7·97
District Hospitals ...	6·6

Average attendance in taluk dispensaries cannot be given with any definiteness as it ranges from 40 to 45 in certain dispensaries to 200 to 250 in certain other taluk dispensaries.

The cost per patient for those treated in dispensaries also cannot be definitely calculated for the reason stated above.

	1937	*1938*
(*c*) Extra Indents :	1,735	1,295

(*d*) All the 1,295 extra indents were complied with in the Stores during 1938.

(*e*) No such complaint has so far been received as the dispensaries have always the option of applying for the required supplies by extra indents. Sixty-five extra indents for such important medicines from among the 80 taluk dispensaries were complied with during the year 1938.

Mr. S. RAMAPPA.—With reference to answer to (*b*), is it not possible to furnish the average expenditure per patient in the major hospitals and in the taluk dispensaries separately ?

Mr. P. H. KRISHNA RAO.—It is possible, but it takes a great deal of time to compile the figures separately.

Mr. S. RAMAPPA.—Is it not possible to give the average expenditure per patient in the case of taluk dispensaries ?

The SENIOR SURGEON (Rajasevasakta Mr. B. K. Narayana Rao).—It involves much labour and time. But I may mention that there is not much difference in cost per patient as between hospitals and dispensaries.

Mr. S. RAMAPPA.—Is it not a fact that the expenditure is very much less in the case of taluk dispensaries than in the bigger hospitals ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—No.

Mr. S. RAMAPPA.—Is the department satisfied that indents are promptly and fully supplied ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—Yes, except perhaps in very rare cases.

Mr. S. RAMAPPA.—Has the department issued circular instructions that extra indents should not be sent up as far as possible ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—No.

Mr. S. RAMAPPA.—Has the Senior Surgeon noticed in the course of his inspections that supplies are very inadequate and there are loud complaints in that matter ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—No. On the other hand, I am satisfied that all extra indents have been supplied.

Mr. H. KRISHNAMURTHY ACHAR.—With reference to answer to (*d*), why is an assurance not forthcoming that all extra indents were complied with during 1937 ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—The records relating to supplies made during 1937 have been stuck up in a court of law and so the figures relating to that year could not be given.

Mr. H. KRISHNAMURTHY ACHAR.—Does not the fact that there have been so many supplementary indents itself show that the original supplies are very inadequate?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—No, it only shows that the demand for medicines is increasing.

Mr. B. SITARAMIAH.—Have you not received numerous complaints that the supply of quinine to most dispensaries is inadequate?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—No.

Mr. B. SITARAMIAH.—Has it not come to notice that the doctor in charge of the Hiriyur dispensary had to manage for weeks together without quinine and that for use in very urgent cases, he was put to the necessity of borrowing quinine from other dispensaries?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—Even if that were so, there is nothing very strange in borrowing supplies in emergent cases.

Mr. B. SITARAMIAH.—Is it not a fact that on account of inadequate supplies, the dosage itself has been considerably reduced with the result that patients suffering from malaria have not derived any relief?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—I cannot say whether they have derived benefit or not. But I can certainly say that the dosage would never be reduced.

Mr. B. SITARAMIAH.—Will you kindly state, then, how much quinine has been used and for how many patients?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—Notice.

Mr. Rayara KEMPANNA.—With regard to answer to *(a)* stating that 224 out-patients attended the district hospitals on an average, may I know whether that figure includes the patients treated for rabid dog bite?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—I cannot say.

Mr. Rayara KEMPANNA.—Is it not a fact that in the case of rabid dog bite, ready treatment is not often available?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—I am sorry that it is so in some cases because we have to obtain medicines all the way from Coonoor. Whenever medicines are required, we wire to Coonoor and get them as early as possible, and in some cases a slight delay becomes inevitable.

Mr. K. VENKATARAMIAH.—With regard to pneumonia cases, can I have information with regard to the number of M and H tablets supplied to each hospital and dispensary?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—The number necessarily varies from hospital to hospital.

Mr. K. VENKATARAMIAH.—Could the average number be furnished?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—I cannot say.

Mr. K. VENKATARAMIAH.—Is the department aware that in any case the present supply is too inadequate?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—If that is so, we shall increase the supply.

Mr. MAYANNA.—Are you aware that the dispensary at Bannur has not been getting regular supplies of medicines at all?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—No such complaint has reached me.

Mr. T. SYED KHAJA PIRAN SAHIB.—Is it not possible to keep always in reserve medicines for rabid dog bite?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—The medicines become ineffective after a time. So we cannot simply store them.

Mr. T. SYED KHAJA PIRAN SAHIB.—Is it not desirable to keep small quantities in stock at least during the seasons when cases usually occur?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—The District Boards will have to pay their share of the cost and it may mean avoidable loss of money to them if medicines are obtained and stored whether or not there is need for them.

Mr. T. SYED KHAJA PIRAN SAHIB.—If they are prepared to meet the expenditure, why not store some medicine at least?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—If they want, it can be done.

Mr. T. SYED KHAJA PIRAN SAHIB.—Is it not also desirable to give larger

supplies of quinine to malnad dispensaries ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—We can do it if there is necessity.

Mr. M. SUBBAIYA.—Is it a fact that a fee of one anna per day is levied for each out-patient in the city hospitals ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—Yes.

Mr. M. SUBBAIYA.—What is the additional convenience created for out-patients as a result of that extra levy?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—It is intended to limit the rush in bigger hospitals and to enable the doctors there to devote more time to serious cases.

Mr. M. SUBBAIYA.—Would it not work as a hardship in the case of poor people who cannot afford to pay it ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—If they come with a reference from the nearest dispensary, they will receive attention in the bigger hospitals without payment.

Mr. M. SUBBAIYA.—But does it not mean lot of trouble to the poor people ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—It is an experimental measure to be tried for three months. We shall watch how it works before effecting any changes.

Mr. M. SUBBAIYA.—But is it the idea that a larger number should not derive benefit from the major hospitals ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—No, the idea is that for minor ailments, the patients might go to the smaller dispensaries.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA.—What is the income derived so far from this new levy ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—I have not yet received reports on that question.

Mr. A. VENKATESAIYA.—Is there any proportion fixed in which indigenous and foreign drugs have to be supplied to dispensaries ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—No, and even if it is fixed, the proportion is not strictly adhered to.

Mr. A. VENKATESAIYA.—Are the Medical Stores insisting that all indents must come through the District Medical Officer concerned ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—Yes.

Mr. A. VENKATESAIYA.—What should the dispensaries do if the District Medical Officer disallows any part of the indent ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—If the member means that any District Medical Officer has acted arbitrarily, he is welcome to give particulars, in which case necessary inquiries will be made.

Mr. A. VENKATESAIYA.—Have any instructions been issued to the effect that all prescriptions must have reference to the actual supplies available in the Stores and not be strictly guided by the recognised pharmacopœia ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—No.

Mr. A. VENKATESAIYA.—If any such instructions have been issued, will the Senior Surgeon be pleased to examine them ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—Certainly.

Mr. A. VENKATESAIYA.—If the average attendance in any particular hospital or dispensary is larger than in the previous year and if, therefore increased supplies are asked for, what is the justification for disallowing extra indents ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—I may tell the member straightway that I have inspected almost all the hospitals and dispensaries and I am satisfied that indents are not being arbitrarily disallowed.

Mr. A. VENKATESAIYA.—Are you aware that the Mysore City Municipal Council recently discussed this question and resolved that the administration of some of the dispensaries be taken over by the municipality on account of the trouble about supplies of medicine ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—Yes, but the municipal council appears to be labouring under some misapprehension.

Mr. T. V. NARASINGAPPA.—Have not any of the Boards of Visitors complained to the department about inadequate supply of medicines ?

Mr. B. K. NARAYANA RAO.—No such complaints have been received by me.

Road Cess and Vehicle Tax Collections.

Q.—10. Mr. A. G. MUDDARACHAPPA (Bowringpet Municipality).—